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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 CRYSTAL M. STANLEY,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, Commissioner  
of Social Security,

15 Defendant.  
16

CASE NO. ED CV 11-01331 RZ

MEMORANDUM OPINION  
AND ORDER

17 In seeking reversal of the Social Security Commissioner's determination that  
18 she is not disabled, Plaintiff Crystal M. Stanley raises a single argument: that the  
19 Administrative Law Judge did not make proper findings as to her credibility. The Court  
20 does not agree.

21 Plaintiff has three impairments, asthma, carpal tunnel syndrome, and shoulder  
22 pain, that are considered severe within the meaning of the Social Security Act. [AR 44] The  
23 Administrative Law Judge found that these impairments did not disable her, however,  
24 because she retained the capacity to work. In doing so, the Administrative Law Judge  
25 stated that Plaintiff's testimony was not entirely credible, and then proceeded to explain  
26 why. [AR 48]

27 Pain alone, as testified to by a claimant, cannot be the basis for a finding of  
28 disability. 42 U.S.C. § 423(d)(5)(A). However, because pain is idiosyncratic and not

1 capable of accurate objective measurement, a claim of pain that is legitimately tied to an  
2 impairment also cannot be dismissed out of hand. Rather, the Administrative Law Judge  
3 must give specific and legitimate reasons for finding not credible the testimony that the  
4 pain (“excess pain”) is greater than would normally be anticipated. *Bunnell v. Sullivan*,  
5 947 F.2d 341 (9th Cir. 1991) (en banc); *Smolen v. Chater*, 80 F.3d 1273 (9th Cir. 1996).

6 In saying that Plaintiff’s testimony was “not entirely credible” [AR 48], the  
7 Administrative Law Judge mentioned a number of factors. She mentioned the length of  
8 time since Plaintiff had been hospitalized for asthma, the fact that Plaintiff uses a breathing  
9 machine twice a week, and that her breathing has improved. She mentioned that doctors  
10 cannot find any source for the shoulder pain and that none have recommended surgery.  
11 The Administrative Law Judge also mentioned that Plaintiff has no problems sitting or  
12 standing, and is able to perform a variety of activities. [AR 48]

13 In this Court, Plaintiff protests that she does not have to show that she can  
14 only vegetate in a dark room before her statements must be believed. This is, of course,  
15 true. It also is not relevant here. Many of the tasks Plaintiff performs, such as child  
16 rearing, grocery shopping and laundry can be arduous in their own right, and the ability to  
17 perform them, together with other activities, can legitimately be a factor for not believing  
18 a claimant as to the alleged extent of her pain. *Bunnell*, 947 F.2d at 346; *Fair v. Bowen*,  
19 885 F.2d 597, 603 (9th Cir. 1989). Nor is medical evidence irrelevant in the assessment  
20 of credibility; while it alone cannot usually be the basis for disbelief, it certainly can be a  
21 factor that the Administrative Law Judge considers. *Rollins v. Massanari*, 261 F. 3d 853,  
22 857 (9th Cir. 2001).

23 The Administrative Law Judge did all that the law required of her. There is  
24 no basis for disturbing the decision, and it is affirmed.

25 DATED: May 31, 2012

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RALPH ZAREFSKY  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE